



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Council adopts the Navajo Nation FY 2014 Comprehensive Budget**

**WINDOW ROCK** – This evening, the Navajo Nation Council concluded its annual budget session by approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2014 comprehensive budget, which was tabled last Friday, including a total of 34 amendments.

Early in the discussion, legislation sponsor Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) explained that failure to approve the budget would possibly initiate a continuing resolution and a waiver of Navajo Nation law, which mandates the adoption of a comprehensive budget 20 days prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin) expressed the importance of passing the legislation to avoid hindering services to Diné people.

"You know what happened the last time we had a continuing resolution," said Delegate Nez to fellow Council colleagues. "It brought hardship to our people, the chapters, and the services provided."

Moments before Council voted on the main motion, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) expressed his disapproval of the budget and urged Council to vote against it.

"We put a lot of things in this budget that lack accountability," said Delegate Tsosie. "We need to begin looking at funding the true needs of Navajo people."

After nearly five hours of discussion, Council voted 16-1 in support of the legislation.

The budget now goes to President Ben Shelly for review. President Shelly will have ten days to sign the bill, veto it, or use his line-item veto authority.

A report detailing the condition of appropriations and amendments if forthcoming and will be available by the end of this week.

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